

**RULES  
OF  
HEALTH SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**CHAPTER 0720-11  
CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROGRAM – GENERAL CRITERIA**

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0720-11-.01    General Criteria for Certificate of Need

**0720-11-.01 GENERAL CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED.** The Agency will consider the following general criteria in determining whether an application for a certificate of need should be granted:

- (1) Need. The health care needed in the area to be served may be evaluated upon the following factors:
  - (a) The relationship of the proposal to any existing applicable plans;
  - (b) The population served by the proposal;
  - (c) The existing or certified services or institutions in the area;
  - (d) The reasonableness of the service area;
  - (e) The special needs of the service area population, including the accessibility to consumers, particularly women, racial and ethnic minorities, TennCare participants, and low-income groups;
  - (f) Comparison of utilization/occupancy trends and services offered by other area providers;
  - (g) The extent to which Medicare, Medicaid, TennCare, medically indigent, charity care patients and low income patients will be served by the project. In determining whether this criteria is met, the Agency shall consider how the applicant has assessed that providers of services which will operate in conjunction with the project will also meet these needs.
- (2) Economic Factors. The probability that the proposal can be economically accomplished and maintained may be evaluated upon the following factors:
  - (a) Whether adequate funds are available to the applicant to complete the project;
  - (b) The reasonableness of the proposed project costs;
  - (c) Anticipated revenue from the proposed project and the impact on existing patient charges;
  - (d) Participation in state/federal revenue programs;
  - (e) Alternatives considered; and
  - (f) The availability of less costly or more effective alternative methods of providing the benefits intended by the proposal.
- (3) Contribution to the Orderly Development of Adequate and Effective Healthcare Facilities and/or Services. The contribution which the proposed project will make to the orderly development of an adequate and effective health care system may be evaluated upon the following factors:

(Rule 0720-11-.01, continued)

- (a) The relationship of the proposal to the existing health care system (for example: transfer agreements, contractual agreements for health services, the applicant's proposed TennCare participation, affiliation of the project with health professional schools);
  - (b) The positive or negative effects attributed to duplication or competition;
  - (c) The availability and accessibility of human resources required by the proposal, including consumers and related providers;
  - (d) The quality of the proposed project in relation to applicable governmental or professional standards.
- (4) Applications for Change of Site. When considering a certificate of need application which is limited to a request for a change of site for a proposed new health care institution, The Agency may consider, in addition to the foregoing factors, the following factors:
  - (a) Need. The applicant should show the proposed new site will serve the health care needs in the area to be served at least as well as the original site. The applicant should show that there is some significant legal, financial, or practical need to change to the proposed new site.
  - (b) Economic factors. The applicant should show that the proposed new site would be at least as economically beneficial to the population to be served as the original site.
  - (c) Contribution to the orderly development of health care facilities and/or services. The applicant should address any potential delays that would be caused by the proposed change of site, and show that any such delays are outweighed by the benefit that will be gained from the change of site by the population to be served.
- (5) Certificate of need conditions. In accordance with T.C.A. § 68-11-1609, The Agency, in its discretion, may place such conditions upon a certificate of need it deems appropriate and enforceable to meet the applicable criteria as defined in statute and in these rules.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 68-11-1605, and 68-11-1609. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 31, 2005; effective November 14, 2005.